

## REFINING POINT FOR THE PRELIMINARY PRESS CONFERENCE

November 10, 1962

## SOURCE: Soviet Ground Forces in Cuba

QUESTION: Can you tell us anything about the formations of Soviet troops which are reported to be staying in Cuba and forming up into military units? Have we requested the Soviets to remove these troops?

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT:

The responsible press has reported up to 3,000 Soviet military technical personnel in Cuba.

The published correspondence between you and Chairman Khrushchev makes no reference to either the presence or the ultimate disposition of these Soviet military personnel in Cuba.

As background for your press conference there follows a summary of the evidence available on Soviet military forces in Cuba:

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~

There appear to be between 9 - 16,000 Soviet troops in Cuba; 3 - 6,000 associated with SAM sites; 6 - 10,000 in the four combat groups located at Holguin, Remedios, Santiago de Cuba, Vinales and Artesias. There is also what appears to be a large military installation, possibly a headquarters at the Tarrafas reformatory near Havana.

The four combat groups, one of which appears to be an elite Soviet Guards Unit, are of reduced regimental size. They are equipped with T-55 tanks, 100 mm assault guns, FKO rockets (nuclear-capable rockets of the Honest John type), anti-tank missiles and mortars. Except for the absence of fixed artillery, these formations resemble in some respects a Soviet motorized rifle division operating as four independent combat commands with attached support elements.

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~SUGGESTED POINTS IN REPLY:

Our aerial reconnaissance has proved its value by uncovering the presence of some additional Soviet troops in recent days, and by giving additional information about the type of these troops.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MB

REVIEWED BY

RELEASE  DECLASSIFY  
 EXCISE  DECLASSIFY in PART  
 DENY  Non-responsive info.

FOI, EG or PA exemptions

TS authority to:

CLASSIFY OR  DECLASSIFY  
 DOWNGRADING TS OR  DOWNGRADING OADR

87 - DOS 0317

P B

DECLASSIFIED

Forces of this size are no threat to the United States, and we will not permit them to become a threat to other countries in the Hemisphere.

As Soviet weapons systems leave Cuba, there would appear to be no reason for the presence of such forces in Cuba, especially if there is no intention to reintroduce them. This fact has been brought to the attention of the Soviet authorities.

ABA/P:JFKing:LNGreenup:tab 11/19/62 ABA - Mr. Martin

DECLASSIFIED